



JUST THE FACTS MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC PENSION PLAN

Much has been in the news lately concerning public employees and their pensions. Each state or city across the nation is responsible for creating, administering and funding its own pensions for public employees.

Minnesota's Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) serves more than 250,000 current and former public employees. The Coordinated Plan under PERA is the largest of all the pension programs. By law, City employees are covered by PERA.

Employees pay 6.25 percent of their salaries into the fund and employers contribute 7.25 percent of the employee's salary. PERA provides monthly benefits based on a retirement age of 65.

The following summary answers some of the questions regarding public pension benefits.

- In 2010, approximately 82 percent of public pension benefits were paid by either a) return on plan investments or b) employee/employer payroll deductions.
- The average monthly pension for retirees and beneficiaries for 2011 is \$1,300. While PERA pensions provide members with a monthly income for life, the majority of retirees receive modest benefits.

The majority of those receiving larger pensions is retired firefighters and police officers who earned no Social Security benefits during their years of service to the community.

- State legislation was passed in 2010 to ensure pensions are adequately funded decades into the future. While PERA suffered substantial investment losses during the recent recession, at the end of 2010, the Association had reserves of \$16 billion.

Every year, PERA issues a comprehensive financial report that includes the association's income and expenses, investment selection, and performance and benefit structure.

Police officers and volunteer firefighters are covered by a separate PERA program.

For more information, visit PERA's website at www.mnpera.org.

Strong Value for Your Dollar

PUTTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO WORK WHAT THE OWNER OF A MEDIAN-VALUED HOME PAYS

Residents receive a wide variety of City services for an affordable price. The cost of City services in 2011 for the owner of a median-priced, single-family home in Bloomington with an assessor's market value of \$212,800 is \$67.82 per month.

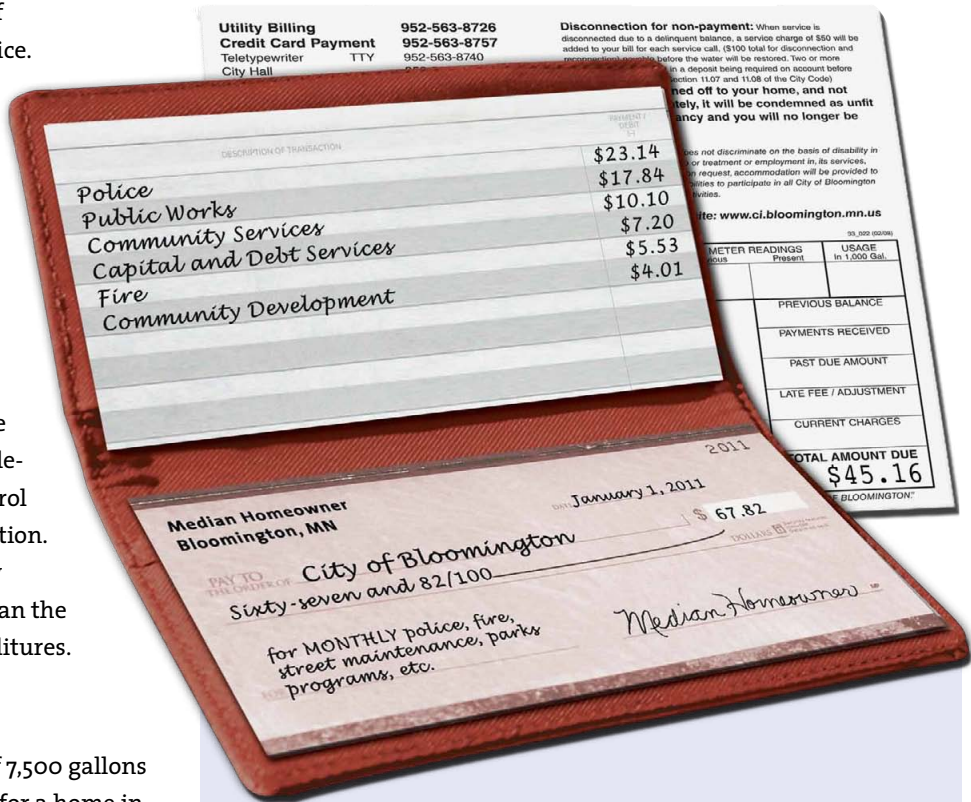
Utilities remain competitively priced in 2011. Stormwater and solid waste fees have remained the same. Water and wastewater rates stayed the same in 2009 and 2010. With the change to water conservation rates in 2011, single-family homeowners will be able to control their utility bill by controlling consumption.

Net property tax cost is obtained by subtracting all revenue sources other than the property tax from departmental expenditures. Water and sewer utilities are fee based.

Monthly cost of utilities

Based on an average water usage of 7,500 gallons per month, the monthly cost of utilities for a home in Bloomington is \$45.16 in 2011. Services include water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste. See page CR7 for more information on utility costs.

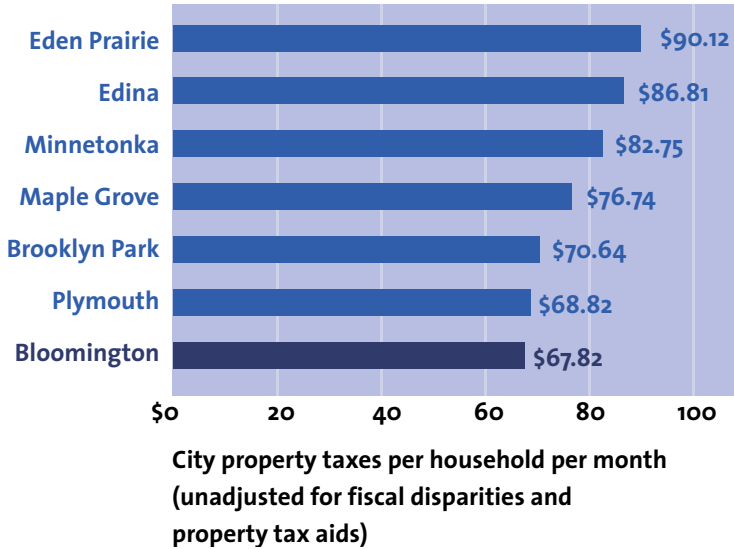
Note: Utility bills are mailed bimonthly and average \$90.32 for the two-month billing cycle.



PROPERTY TAX-SUPPORTED SERVICES

This checkbook shows how the monthly cost of property tax-supported services is divided among City departments.

CITY TAX COMPARISON ON MEDIAN-VALUED, SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN 2011



YOUR 2011 TAX DOLLAR HOW IT ALL BREAKS DOWN

The single-family residential tax dollar is divided among several governmental entities. As the graphic at right shows, for every dollar of taxes paid, 29 cents are for City services. The actual amount of taxes owed is based on market value, tax law and the levy. The levy for all local governmental entities is spread across properties within each entity's respective boundaries using tax capacity, a function of market value and property type. After applying educational aids, a Bloomington homeowner with a median-valued home pays \$2,762 in property taxes. Of that, \$814, or \$67.82 per month, goes to the City for services. The remaining \$1,948 or \$162.33 a month goes to the School District, County and other taxing districts.

MEETING DEMANDS WITH QUALITY CITY SERVICES

BLOOMINGTON RANKS WELL IN COMPARISON

The City continues to meet the needs of its residents while constantly looking for ways to improve and keep costs affordable. In a 2011 comparison of seven communities in Hennepin County with more than 20,000 residents, the monthly cost of City services for a single-family home in Bloomington ranked lowest at \$67.82. The graph at left illustrates the cost-effectiveness of Bloomington services in terms of what the owner of a median-valued home pays in the metro area. Bloomington is very cost competitive even with newer communities such as Brooklyn Park, Plymouth and Maple Grove that are just on the cusp of infrastructure renewal that Bloomington began almost 20 years ago.



First telephone service was installed in Bloomington.

1903



First Ford automobile franchise was obtained by Elmer Scott and automobiles began to appear around town.

1913



Bloomington Consolidated School was built, bringing together students from seven one-room school districts.

1918